



Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Alcohol and Other Drug Use

General Survey Information

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is part of a biennial national effort led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The YRBS monitors health risks and behaviors in six categories, which are related to the leading causes of mortality and morbidity among both youth and adults. Data is collected from 9th through 12th graders on behaviors that contribute to physical activity, nutrition, tobacco use, alcohol and other drug use, violence and injuries, and sexual behavior.

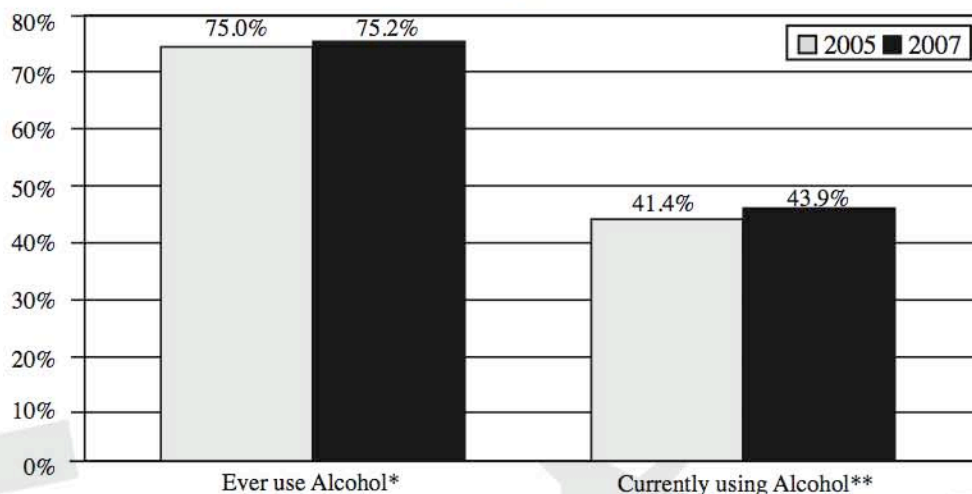
The Problem

Alcohol use among adolescents is a major factor in homicides, suicides, motor vehicle crash deaths, and injuries.¹ Heavy alcohol use among adolescents is associated with other risk behaviors including cigarette use, drug use, and sexual activity.² Long term alcohol drinking can also increase the risk of developing heart disease, certain forms of cancer, cirrhosis, and liver disorders.²

Alcohol Use

According to the 2007 Indiana YRBS, 75.2% of high school students reported ever using alcohol in their lifetime as compared to 75% in 2005. Furthermore, 43.9% of students reported currently using alcohol whereas in 2005 current use was reported at 41.4%. Although these findings are not statistically significant, there appears to be a slight increase in the use of alcohol by Indiana adolescents over a two year period as shown in Figure I. Among Indiana high school students, 59.1% of 12th graders reported having at least one drink of alcohol on one or more of the past 30 days as compared to 35.7% of 9th graders.

FIGURE I
2007 Indiana YRBS
Alcohol Use

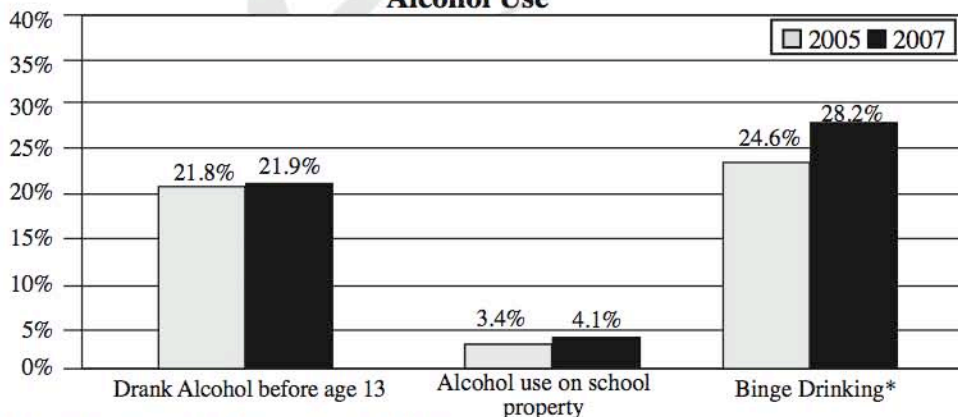


* Had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more days during their life.

** Had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more days during on one or more of the past 30 days.

Age at onset of drinking strongly predicts development of alcohol dependence over the course of the lifespan. About 40% of those who start drinking at age 14 years or under develop alcohol dependence at some point in their lives.³ The prevalence of alcohol use before age 13, alcohol use on school property, and binge drinking have increased slightly since 2005, but the changes are not statistically significant. (See Figure II).

FIGURE II
2007 Indiana YRBS
Alcohol Use



* Drank 5 or more drinks in a row in last 30 days

2007 Indiana Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Drug Use

Illegal use of drugs such as marijuana, psychedelics, inhalants, and cocaine is associated with injury, illness, disability, and death.³ Drug users are frequently involved with crime, domestic violence, and lost workplace productivity.⁴ Drug users also have a high risk of contracting gonorrhea, syphilis, hepatitis, tuberculosis, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).⁴ The 2007 Indiana YRBS shows that 9.1% of high school students tried marijuana before 13 years of age, 4.1% used marijuana on school property, 18.9% are currently using marijuana, and 37.8% reported ever having used marijuana in their lifetime. (See Figure III)

Between 2005 and 2007, Indiana adolescent males ever using marijuana decreased from 41.3% to 39.5%. The 2007 data also shows that females reporting the use of marijuana on school property increased from 1.2% to 2.1%.

According to the 2007 Indiana YRBS, the percentage of students who were offered, sold, or given an illegal drug by someone on school property during the past 12 months decreased significantly from 28.9% to 20.5%. Also, 6.2% of high school students ever used methamphetamines, 3.6% ever used heroin, 15.8% ever used inhalants, and 8.0% ever used some form of cocaine. There seems to be a slight increase in drug use except for methamphetamines, however, these changes are not statistically significant. (See Figure IV)

FIGURE III
2007 Indiana YRBS
Marijuana Use

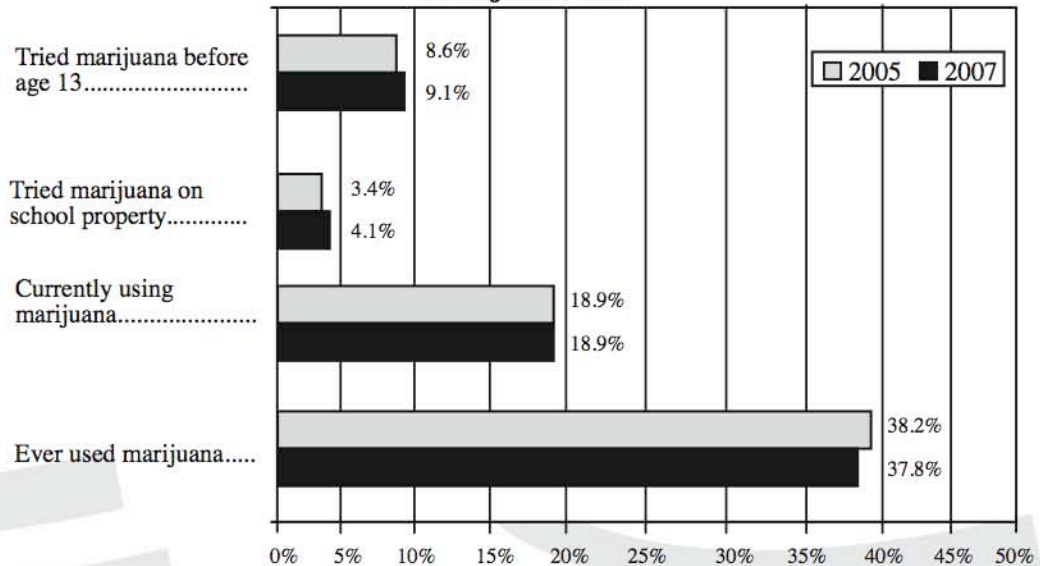
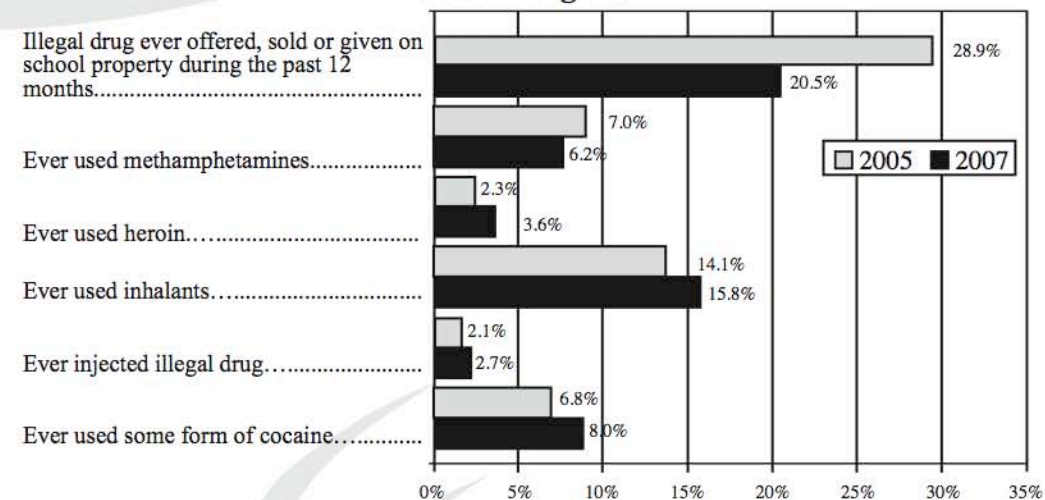


FIGURE IV
2007 Indiana YRBS
Other Drug Use



Healthy People 2010 Goals:

- p 26-10a. Increase the proportion of adolescents not using alcohol or any illicit drugs during the past 30 days to 89%.
- p 26-10b. Reduce the proportion of adolescents reporting use of marijuana during the past 30 days to 0.7%.
- p 26-11d. Reduce the proportion of adolescents aged 12 to 17 years engaging in binge drinking during the past month to 2%.

References:

1. Tangirala, M.K., Perera.B. (2004). Alcohol. Indiana Prevention Resource Center.
2. Measures of Alcohol Consumption and Alcohol-related Health Effects from Excessive consumption. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Accessed from <http://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/factsheets/general_information.htm>
3. Healthy People 2010: Substance Abuse.
4. The Consequences of Illegal Drug Use. Office of National Drug Control Policy. Accessed from <http://www.ncjrs.org/ondcnpubs/publications/policy/ndcs00/chap2_10.html>

Go to www.in.gov/yrbs for a complete set of fact sheets, tables, graphs, and confidence intervals for all of the 2007 YRBS data. Confidence intervals should be utilized to determine which changes are statistically significant.

For More Information:

Indiana State Department of Health: 1-800-433-0746

2007 Indiana Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS): www.in.gov/yrbs

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System: www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/yrbs